

# MINUTES OF TRUSTEES MEETING

<b>WESTER ROSS FISHERIES TRUST OFFICES</b>	<b>PRESENT:</b> <b>Barry Blake (BB)</b> <b>Richard Wilson (RW)</b> <b>Richard Greene (RG)</b>
<b>PURPOSE:      MANAGEMENT MEETING</b>	<b>APOLOGIES:</b> <b>John Mackenzie – Chairman (JM)</b> <b>Ben Hadfield (BH)</b> <b>Angus Morrison (AM)</b> <b>Ian Fergusson (IF)</b> <b>Nigel Pearson (NP)</b> <b>Bob Kindness (BK)</b> <b>Mark Williams (MW)</b> <b>Graeme Wilson (GW)</b>
<b>DATE:            24 March 2009</b>	
<b>OPENED AT:    10.30</b>	
<b>CLOSED AT:    15.30</b>	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>Peter Jarosz (PJ)</b> <b>Mary Gibson (MG)</b>	<b>Peter Cunningham (PC)</b> <b>Veronica Mullaney (VM)</b>

## 1.     **MATTERS ARISING**

- 1.i WRFT are still looking for an angling representative – **PC** will ask whether there is anyone from the Southern Rivers’ area who may wish to take up this role..
- 1.ii Trustees are asked to check (at the next opportunity – AGM) that their entries in the “Interest Book” are, in fact, up to date.
- 1.iii The Sea Lice review is scheduled for 16/04/09 and includes speakers from Sheildaig project, Marine Harvest and Wester Ross Fisheries with Arthur Griffiths chairing the meeting. The focus is on information gathered – what it tells us as well as what it doesn’t tell us – and the meeting is not about lobbying.
- 1.iv This then raises the issue (again) of WRFT’s role in responding to planning applications and to our policy towards fish farms generally. Should we consider a separate meeting on this subject?
- 1.v The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> January meeting were then passed as read.

## 2.     **FINANCE**

- 2.i The Cash Projection was taken as per the circulated report (with two small amendments) with the following noted:
  - Biosecurity Project now has £2000 included as income.
  - Some of the monies shown, as income, under 08/09 projects have yet to come in.
  - Income is still outstanding from three Southern Rivers’ estates and NTS – it was decided to cancel the amounts from the three Southern Rivers but to chase up the NTS – **PJ**.
  - Further work at the Tournaig Trap will ensure that the money from MH is spent this year.
  - A new project for secondary schools (Lochan Life) is proposed. A grant for equipment has been sought from the Royal Society whilst funding for the remainder costs has been sort equally from RAFTS and SNH.
  - **RW** asked whether WRFT’s is currently “holding” too much money – the trust is currently holding the equivalent of one year’s running costs and this is one of the trust’s long standing remits.
- 2.ii The Management Reports were taken as per the circulated report and the 09/10 Budget was scrutinised. **VM** briefly outlined the major on-going projects and following points:
  - Contract work for Kyle, Diabaig and BBC projects brought in approx £3K for core income.
  - Sweep netting at £15K was quite significant income as well as an extra £1.5K for meetings.
  - Annual Review is to be completed + management plan and summary.
  - Genetics money will be claimed by RAFTS (with the exception of £713 from AST which WRFT can now use for data collection work – **PJ** informed of this after the meeting).
  - S & T in the classroom will carry forward into 09/10.
  - WRFT have received the HC money for Marine Seminar and must use that amount before April 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 – this can be done with the preparation and admin work leading up to the project.
  - Equipment figures include the cost of the new boat.
  - WRFT’s current account is healthy raising the probability of having to transfer some monies to Nationwide account to restrict our exposure at HBoS to <£50K – **PJ/VM**.
  - The budget does show that there is money available for more core work in 09/10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> electro-fishing team?
  - WRFT does need to clarify the situation on overhead rates for 09/10 – do these apply to contract staff? (RAFTS later confirmed that contract biologist should be at WRFT’s overhead rate – **PJ**).
  - Mink and Biosecurity work will continue into 09/10.

- Fyke netting on Loch Tollaidh will continue with the help of volunteers and contract labour but under review of the costs.
- 2.iii** The Southern River Proprietors may, in the future, align themselves with the new proposed Skye Fisheries Board.
- 2.iv MG** gave an update re the grant funding process at SNH. The immediate impact is that funding requests should be submitted by September for the following financial year. To be successful, bids should focus on outreach to people (understanding, education, interpretation and enjoyment) and surveys/research projects should target specialist grant funding institutions.

### 3. BIOLOGIST'S REPORT

- 3.i** Sea lice data is being examined for trends and a Sea Lice Review has been forwarded to WRFT by Fiona Cameron.
- 3.ii** MH will be approached for 09/10 funding of the Tournaig Trap – **PJ**.
- 3.iii PC** reported that there had been a significant spread of minnows into a number of lochs.
- 3.iv** On May 16<sup>th</sup> there will be an Awareness Raising Day for which the Biosecurity Project funding has £500 ring-fenced for this Awareness day.
- 3.v RG** will consider chairing the Marine Seminar that is funded jointly by HC and SG (via RAFTS).
- 3.vi** RAFTS Challenge has been set for June 12/13.
- 3.vii** Rotary Screw Trap –funded by AM – should arrive by Easter to go onto the River Ewe and WRFT will help with its operation (a WRFT project funded by SG via RAFTS).
- 3.viii** BK will be operating TWG Rotary Screw Trap on the River Carron and again WRFT will help with its operation (WRFT's funding from SG via RAFTS). Stuart Middlemarch will provide scientific overview.
- 3.ix** FRS will conduct in July/Aug a Nutrient Trial (Carrying Capacity) on the River Carron and it is proposed that WRFT will get involved with 10 days electro-fishing by one team.
- 3.x** WRFT's priorities for 09/10:
- Assessment of river production status/potential - electro-fishing.
  - Outreach to people – “Salmon & Trout” and “Lochan Life” in the classrooms; open events.
  - Factors constraining salmonid production - nutrients management.
  - Factors constraining Sea Trout production - sea lice monitoring.
  - Understanding the dynamics of salmonid fisheries – support to management of RST on rivers Ewe and Carron.
  - Factors threatening salmonid production – development of Biosecurity Plan for Wester Ross.
  - Factors threatening salmonid production – support to the mink control project.
- 3.xi** Scottish Government funding (via RAFTS) for 09/10 is £13.5K to deliver our FMP – we have already committed some £2.2K of this budget.

### 4. AOB

- 4.i** A proposed visit by RAFTS (Andrew Wallace, Callum Sinclair and Roger Brooks) to WRFT has now been co-ordinated with our AGM/Marine Seminar on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May.
- 4.ii** Does our method of conducting an AGM conform with what is required? (**PJ** has subsequently looked into this and sought advice from RAFTS and can report that we do conform – by way of precedent as there are no rules in our Deed of Trust – to cover the essential aspects of an AGM).
- 4.ii** WRFT's Health & Safety policy and Insurance needs to be reviewed and the H & S policy signed by the Chairman and those employees working in the field.
- 4.ii** The Tournaig Trap specific H & S procedure (single/lone working) needs reviewing and bringing up to date as, possibly, does the policy referring to contract workers..

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	TIME
AGM/Trustees' Meeting	28 May 2009	WRFT Office	14.30
AGM Public Meeting	28 May 2009	Poolewe Village Hall	19.00
Marine Seminar	29 May 2009	Poolewe Village Hall	10.00
Management Meeting	26 June 2009	WRFT Office	10.30